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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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November 2, 1973

Honorable William E. Colby
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Bill:

You will recall that on 27 September I submitted the Study of Reconnaissance Operations to Dr. Kissinger. In the final paragraph of the accompanying memo I made the suggestion that a review of reconnaissance operations by individual geographic areas should be undertaken by an interdepartmental group.

I intend to initiate the review by analyzing our reconnaissance operations against the PRC. It is a big program -- only the one in SEA is bigger -- and in an important area. It brings in several unusual problems -- the use of drones, SR-71's, and [redacted] U-2's. It has potential for increased satellite uses. It is an area in which the important problem of the use of [redacted] assets to assist the national effort arises.

I propose that we form a Steering Committee to oversee the analysis of requirements for reconnaissance against the People's Republic of China. The principal function of the Committee would be to guide and review the efforts of the sub-committees dealing with various elements of the analysis, and finally to prepare a report to the 40 Committee. It is my concept that the members of this Steering Committee would be either flag officers or civilian supergrades, with the Chairman furnished by the Department of Defense.

So that the Committee may begin its task, I would appreciate your designating your Committee representative.

NRO and OSD review(s) completed.

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NRO

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Classified by [redacted]
EXEMPT FROM CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, EXEMPTION CATEGORY Para. 5 B(2)&(3)
DECLASSIFY ON: Impossible to Determine

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